



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cathy Wolfe
District One

Diane Oberquell
District Two

Robert N. Macleod
District Three

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

September 30, 2005

Ms. Janice Sedlak
Washington State Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program

OCT 03 2005

Richard D. Blinn, P.E.
Director

Subject: Comments on the Preliminary Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Permit Appendix 6

Dear Ms. Sedlak:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft preliminary NPDES Phase II permit appendix 6, Annual Report Form. At this time, we are only providing general comments on the draft document. We trust that the Annual Report Form will change based on comments Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) received on the Preliminary Draft NPDES Phase II permit and the draft Appendix 6, Annual Report Form.

Therefore, our general comments on the Draft Annual Report Form are as follows:

Because each Permittee will have unique reporting requirements based on elements in their Stormwater Management Program (SMP), we think the draft report form, as written, will not be useful to the Permittee or WDOE. Many of the questions are too specific to WDOE's draft permit and not necessarily to the Permittee's permit. Until the permit is in the next generation draft, the County will refrain from commenting on specific questions.

We think WDOE should initially require the general EPA reporting requirements (40 CFR 122.34 (g)(3)) which include the following:

- (i) The status of compliance with permit conditions, an assessment of the appropriateness of your identified best management practices (BMP) and progress towards achieving your identified measurable goals for each minimum control measures;
- (ii) Results of information collected and analyzed, including monitoring data, if any, during the reporting period;
- (iii) A summary of stormwater activities you plan to undertake during the next reporting cycle;



Janice Sedlak, DOE
September 30, 2005
Page Two

(iv) A change in any identified BMPs or measurable goals for any of the minimum control measures; and

(v) Notice that you are relying on another governmental entity to satisfy some of your permit obligations (if applicable)

A great majority of the questions pertain to program elements that are not required for up to several years following the development of the SMP. Thus, many would be checked "no" because they are not required during the first year of the SMP. The questions are not appropriate for the first year of reporting.

Many of the questions require the same information and are redundant.

It would appear that the current draft reporting requirements attempt to determine future reporting through adaptive management of multiple Permittees. It is critical that WDOE first determine what their desired information needs are and communicate them to the Permittees. This would allow everyone to work as efficiently as possible to address the needs of the Permittees and WDOE.

S.7.C.3, question six, requests information on UIC facilities. Ecology should determine how they are going to manage stormwater facilities that are covered under the UIC rule and not the Phase II permit. It would seem logical to report facilities under the Phase II permit, but that guidance has not been disclosed by WDOE. Please clarify where reporting of UIC well facilities will be required under Phase II or the UIC rule?

Finally, if WDOE must have detailed reporting requirements for the NPDES Phase II permit, the report should be consistent with the Permittee's individual Phase II permit. In addition, Ecology should align reporting requirements of other regulations (e.g., total maximum daily load (TMDL) and Underground Injection Control (UIC)) with NPDES Phase II reporting to eliminate providing the same information more than once and in more than one format to WDOE.

If you have questions regarding our comments, please contact me or Barbara Wood at 360-357-2491. We can also be reached via email at bachmej@co.thurston.wa.us or woodba@co.thurston.wa.us.

Sincerely,



Jim Bachmeier

Water Resources Manager

cc: Barbara Wood